

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04208 270930Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----085295 271035Z /12
R 270856Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5012
INFO USDOC WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 4208

USDOC FOR CAGNE

NEA/ARN PASS EX-IM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, LE
SUBJECT: PHOENICIA HOTEL REPAIRS

REF: STATE 197632

1. MR. NAJIB SALHA, MAJORITY OWNER OF PHOENICIA INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL, BEIRUT, CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY AUGUST 24 THAT HE HAS BEGUN REPAIRS TO THE HOTEL. REPAIRS PROCEEDING IN LOW KEY FASHION, SALHA SAID, UNTIL THE POLITICAL SITUATION BECOMES CLEARER. ASKED VALUE OF WORK TO BE DONE, SALHA SAID ENGINEERS' ESTIMATE FOR TOTALLY REHABILITATING HOTEL WAS \$13.3 MILLION BUT HE HAS MADE NO COMMITMENT YET TO SPEND THAT AMOUNT.

2. COMMENT: RUMORS HAVE FLOATED FOR SOME TIME THAT SALHA, WHILE PUBLICLY REFUSING REPAIR HOTEL UNTIL GOL OFFERED SOME COMPENSATION FOR WAR DAMAGES, HAS BEEN SECRETLY WORKING ON INTERIOR. GOL HAS REFUSED TO OFFER COMPENSATION. THERE IS STILL NO PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT
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OF A DECISION TO PROCEED WITH REPAIRS, AND NO EXTERNALLY VISIBLE SIGN OF PROGRESS. SALHA DESCRIBED PRESENT WORK AS REMOVAL INTERIOR RUBBLE AND BROKEN GLASS, INITIAL REPAIRS TO LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT, BOILER ROOMS AND FREEZERS. THIS OBVIOUSLY QUALIFIES AS A START ON REPAIRS, BUT IT IS LESS THAN ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DESCRIBE PHOENICIA AS "UNDERGOING DOLLARS 20 MILLION IN REPAIRS" AS STATED IN

MCGRAW-HILL ARTICLE. WHAT EXACTLY DID SALHA TELL EX-IM
TEAM?
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, COMPENSATION, HOTELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dae1df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: EFIN, ECRE, LE, (SALHA, NAJIB)
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